



# **John Reich Journal**

Volume 19 / Issue 1

May 2008

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues ..... \$20.00  
Life Membership ..... \$500.00

For general membership information, letters to the Editor  
or articles for publication, please contact:

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG  
P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030-0135  
E-Mail: [jrcs19@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrcs19@roadrunner.com)

**Web Address: <http://www.jrcs.org>**

All other correspondence should be directed to:  
Office of the President, David J. Davis  
P.O. Box 400, Manchester, MI 48158

The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Newly Discovered 1825 0118 Capped Bust Half Dollar, third known.  
Photo Courtesy of ANACS ([www.anacs.com](http://www.anacs.com))

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# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the  
John Reich Collectors Society

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## Editor's Comments

Many exciting things continue to happen in our wonderful world of early American coinage. Last year saw the discovery of two new die marriages, the 1806 O130 Draped Bust half dollar and the 1835 LM12 Capped Bust half dime. Recently the third known specimen of the 1825 O118 half dollar was identified as well as the second known 1835 LM12 half dime. There are still many interesting and valuable things to be discovered by those with the knowledge and patience to search for them. I hope you are as excited as I was to read about these two new discoveries. The 1825 O118 is featured as our cover coin for this volume of the journal. It recently sold for \$69,000 at the Heritage Long Beach auction.

The officers of JRCS would like to thank all the members who have sent in "a little extra" with their dues check to offset the expenses of the society. There were quite a few donations sent this year and your generosity will be well spent bringing the **John Reich Journal** to everyone without a dues increase for the near future.

The time has come to plan for the annual meeting at the ANA convention in Baltimore. Our meeting will be held on Wednesday July 30, 2008 at 8AM in the Baltimore Convention Center Room 318. The annual business of the society will be conducted during the meeting including the election of officers for the following year. We are currently accepting nominations for the election. If you are interested in nominating someone for office, or if you would like to serve the society in any capacity, please contact Brad Karoleff at [jrcs19@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrcs19@roadrunner.com). We will feature an educational presentation at the meeting as well as announcing the winner of the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* as voted on by the membership. The winner will be presented with a plaque commemorating their contribution to the society and the final tally of the voting will be reported in the next issue of the journal.

If any of you are not yet receiving the online newsletter of the society, The JR News, you can sign up by sending your email address to Bill Luebke at [jrnews@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jrnews@nyc.rr.com). Get your weekly fix on the latest news of the society every Sunday.

The next census that we will be publishing is for the dimes. We have a new census keeper for this denomination. Kirk Gorman will be taking over for Dr. Horning who has compiled the dime information for the last few years. I would like to personally thank Charlie, and all the census keepers, for their work and dedication to the society. I am sure Kirk will bring the same energy and dedication to the job. All dime collectors are encouraged to submit their census information including duplicates and die states to Kirk at [kirk@bustdimes.net](mailto:kirk@bustdimes.net). You can also forward your census by snail mail to the society at JRCS PO Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030. Your information will go a long way to making Kirk's efforts more meaningful for the membership.

Do you have any information that may be interesting to other members of the society? Are you working on a research project and need help with information? Is your research nearly done and ready to be published? We would love to have you submit a letter to the editor, request for information, or a full length research paper for publication in the **John Reich Journal**. By submitting an article you will become eligible to receive the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* given to the most popular submission as voted by the membership on a yearly basis. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about submitting your items for publication. Feel free to contact me anytime via email or letter.

One of our member dealers, Sheridan Downey, has recently acquired the collection of Charlton "Swampy" Meyer. Charlton was the only collector to ever have a complete 450 die marriage set of the circulation strikes of the Capped Bust half dollars. Other collectors had completed sets in the past before some of the most recent discoveries had been made. The Overton collection is still intact and should be close to equaling Charlton's accomplishment. Is there some news that anyone can forward to us for future publication on the matter? Our congratulations to all involved.

The joint EAC/JRCS convention in Dallas has recently been completed. This was the second year that the copper guys have invited us to their party. From all accounts this convention was even a greater success than the last. The JRCS had a happening room to ourselves on Thursday evening where we displayed errors on the silver issues. There were some really interesting coins displayed by our membership. Plans are underway for next year's convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. If anyone has a suggestion for the theme or die marriages to be displayed next year you can contact me. We will also need volunteers to help run the room. Consider attending, you will have a great time and get to see some great coins and meet their owners!

The convention gives us all an opportunity to make new friends within the hobby. There is nothing better than having the chance to talk coins with a group of individuals that are interested in more than the grade and pop numbers. The amount of knowledge available to those who participate is unbelievable. You will routinely be drawn into discussions of attribution techniques, die state studies, minting methods and other interesting subjects concerning the coins you love. Many of these discussions are illustrated with magnificent coins that are not usually available at normal shows for inspection.

You will also have the opportunity to attend classes and seminars to expand your knowledge on the coins you collect. Each year collectors and dealers share their knowledge and experiences from decades of involvement in the hobby. The only other place there is this much education is at the annual ANA convention. The best part of the EAC convention is that all the education is on items from the first U.S. Mint and the colonial period. You will find something of interest in every one of the presentations that will intrigue you. Come learn and have some fun!

Now, sit back relax and enjoy the latest issue of the journal. I hope to see many of you in the next couple of months at the ANA show in Baltimore. Happy cherrypicking!

**Notice: Bust Dime Census Information is  
Solicited for inclusion in the next issue  
of the John Reich Journal.**

**Please email your complete inventory listing (including  
duplicates and die states) /or any questions, to**

**Kirk Gorman at: [kirk@bustdimes.net](mailto:kirk@bustdimes.net)**

**or hard copies to Kirk at  
PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030.**





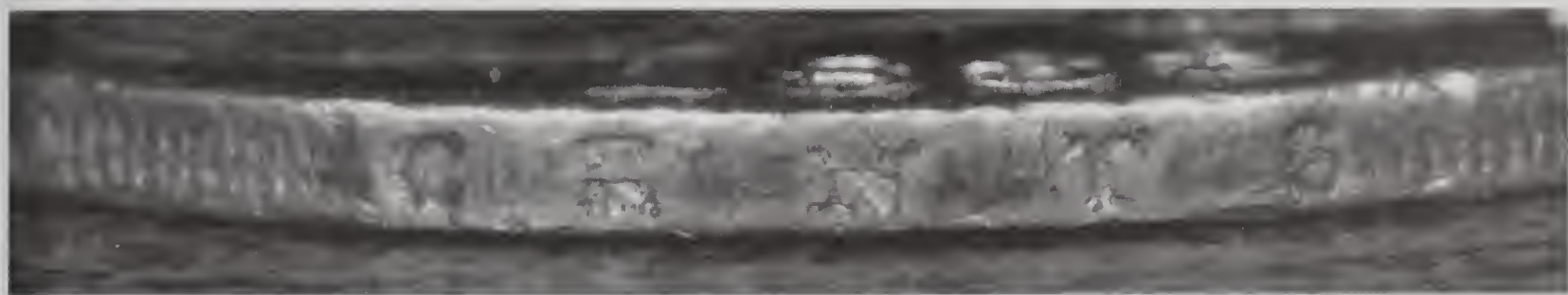
## Letter To The Editor

My name is Bob Limke, and I am a member of JRCS. I have a question regarding an 1833 O. 105 Capped Bust Half Dollar, and would like to know where the question would best be posed? I am wondering about significant edge reeding on this variety, as well as the potential for this coin being a prime state example. I have enclosed a link to photos of my example on a coin forum called "Coinzip". This site emphasises Capped Bust Half Dollars, and draws a fair number of viewers and members. Do you have a "master" listing of articles from past journals that may pertain to the history of this condition? I thank you in advance for your help of any type.

<http://s108.photobucket.com/albums/n20/23pairer/Early%20Half%20Dollars/>

Regards,

Bob Limke, rlimke@charter.net



## A Second example of the 1835 LM-12 half dime

**Louis Scuderi**

Ever since Edgar announced the new 1835 LM-12 variety last February I, and every other capped bust half dime collector, have actively been looking for an example for their collections. After reading the Logan-McCloskey book back in 1999 I had become convinced that the most likely year for a new half dime discovery would be in the 1835's since there are so many interesting die combinations of large and small dates and large and small 5 C's. As well, marriages with reverse dies used as early as 1831 (reverse P) and as late as 1837 (reverse EE) suggest that the coiners just picked up whatever dies might be available. In some cases (reverse P) these dies were fairly beat up even before their use in 1835. For these reasons I had been searching the 1835's for almost a decade now looking for that new variety.

In mid-January, having just returned from Australia I found myself unable to sleep due to jet lag. So what does a bust coin collector do when he is totally jet lagged and can't sleep at 3 AM? It is obvious. Go on-line and search dealer's pages for rare varieties. So at 4AM while searching the umpteenth page I found a low-grade 1835 half dime with images of both obverse and reverse. It was clearly the 1835 small date obverse 4 but when I clicked on the obverse image expecting to see reverse DD I realized that the large 5C was too high. Even in my sleep-deprived state I quickly thought, it can't be LM-12. A quick check of the other markers for LM-12 using an overlay in Photoshop confirmed the reverse as reverse JJ.

With the coin in hand a few days later I was able to confirm more of the die markers that Edgar had noted. Most interesting was the strong lapping and nearly complete lack of reeding. As Edgar noted for the discovery coin the reeding is extremely weak. On my coin I can only pick it up in a few places and when I first looked at the edge I actually thought that there was no reeding at all.

I expect that continued searching will turn up a few more. However, since the 5C relationship is so easy to see, I'm guessing that there are not a lot out there. I don't think that we are done with 1835 half dime marriages. Keep checking your 1835's for the LM-12 and other potential new varieties.

Thanks to Richard Meaney and Mike Sherrill for confirming the attribution.





# **Did Browning Discover the 1806 B-10?**

**Bill Bugert**

In his 1925 quarter dollar reference, Ard W. Browning listed 88 bust quarter dollar die varieties, as he knew them. His book included nine die marriages B-1 through B-9 for 1806. In recent years since his book was published, the very scarce B-10 variety has been discovered, documented, and well publicized. However, did Browning originally discover the 1806 B-10? This short article addresses that question.

During the past two years, I spent many enjoyable hours researching and documenting information on Martin Luther Beistle, (1875-1935), the prominent half dollar collector, numismatist, and author in the early 20th Century. In 1929, ML, as he was and is now known, published the first book on half dollar die varieties, *A Registry of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties* – it was the only authoritative reference available to bust half dollar collectors from 1929 until the Overton book in 1967; over 37 years.<sup>1</sup> However, what does ML Beistle have to do with A.W. Browning and the 1806 B-10 quarter dollar? Plenty!

ML Beistle founded The Beistle Company, a successful manufacturer of decorations and party goods still functioning in Shippensburg, PA. During my research, I was graciously allowed access to The Beistle Company archives where I found extensive original correspondence to and from ML Beistle. Among those were letters between A.W. Browning and ML Beistle, who were at least acquaintances and possibly good friends. Browning and ML discussed the death of their mutual friend, David Proskey, details of Browning's discovery of the second 1804 quarter variety, the number of quarter dollar varieties in Browning's collection (i.e., 980 including seated), road trips across the country, Browning's bids on the T. James Clarke auction, and even including invitations for visits.

In one of those letters dated June 10, 1929, Browning stated in a postscript, "Mr. Raymond published the book I wrote covering the early quarter dollars, 1796-1838. While the book was at the binders I discovered a 10th variety for the 1806 quarter, which of course is not included, got one very good and later another strictly fine. Since that date have found nothing new in that series, except three or four conditions as to die cracks not found until after the book was published." I have attached a scan of the second page of that letter with Browning's note and signature. Unfortunately, for modern day numismatists, Browning gave no specifics on the die characteristics of that new 10th variety. However, it seems likely that Browning's new 10th variety is today's B-10; another less likely alternative is it could be another yet discovered 1806 variety. I found it interesting that Browning found not only one before his book was published but later a second example of this new 1806 variety.

*1 Summary information on ML Beistle's life, business (The Beistle Company, which still exists in family hands today), half dollar collection, half dollar book, and his "Unique Coin Holder" is contained in my biography of him in the Liberty Seated Collectors Club's The Gobrecht Journal, Issue #100.*

As far as I know, Browning did not publicize the discovery of this 10th variety and took this knowledge to his grave. It was not until recently that this variety was rediscovered.

Comments are welcome and can be addressed to me at [wb8cpy@arrl.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).



G. A. SMITH, M. D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

State of New York  
Department of Mental Hygiene

CENTRAL ISLIP STATE HOSPITAL

Central Islip,

Long Island, N. Y. June 10, 1929.

Page 2.

home city as we got.

Thanking you for forwarding me literature concerning  
your new coin book and hoping you are enjoying the best of  
health, I remain

Very cordially yours,

*Wm. and W. Browning*  
P. O. Box 539, Central Islip, N. Y.

P. S. - - Mr. Raymond published the book I wrote covering the  
early quarter dollars, 1796-1838, in May 1925. While the book  
was at the binders I discovered a 10th variety of the 1806  
quarter, which of course is not included, got one very good  
and later another strictly fine. Since that date have found  
nothing new in that series, except three or four conditions  
as to die cracks not found until after the book was published.

*Wm. Browning*



# **Discovery of an Unattributed 1825 O-118 Half Dollar**

**Gene C. Holmes**

We all have our stories as to how we got interested in coins. I started as a 13 year old looking through wheat penny rolls and placing my finds in a Whitman folder. During the month of August 1958 I found a 1955 double die. At that time it was valued at approximately \$35, a lot of money for a 13 year old. I still have this wonderful choice AU specimen which got me hooked.

As an adult my enjoyment and interest mushroomed after joining the Liberty Coin Club of West Haven, CT. Here I held several offices over the last 30 years.

It was March of 1987 that I started selling coins at local coin shows. A year later I opened a small coin shop for a few hours a week. I retired from the corporate world of employee benefits management in April 2000. This opened the door for me to enter the world of coins full time.

Relying on relationships already established at coin shows and having part-time store hours for 12 years I rarely advertised. Throughout my business career I learned to place a high value on the people you deal with and your relationships with them whether customer or vendor. Without trust in your relationships there is no measure of success.

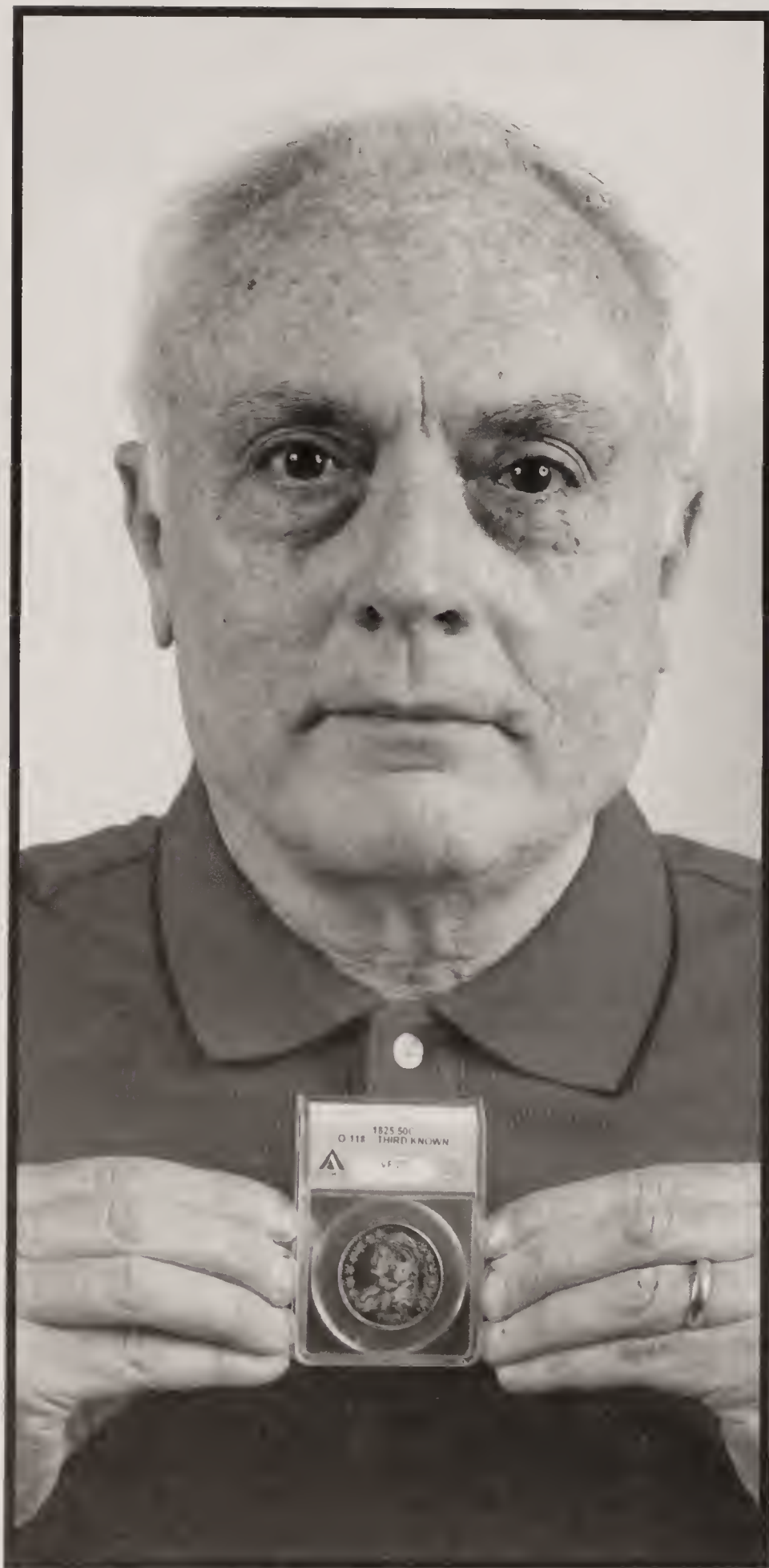
In February of this year I purchased a group of coins from an advanced collector that I have dealt with for several years. As part of the group there were two Bust Halves. Bust Halves are one of my favorite series of US coins. I feel they are underpriced for the age and beauty, not to mention the excitement I get out of attributing them. It took me over a week to get around to attributing the 1825 half that I purchased. I use both Don Parsley's "United States Early Half Dollar Die Varieties" and Glenn Peterson's "The Ultimate Guide to Attributing Bust Half Dollars" to attribute Bust Halves.

Typically I start with 101 and work my way through the gamut of varieties. I usually line up the "I" in PLURIBUS in relation to the second "T" in STATES thus eliminating anything that not is close then consulting Peterson's book to assure attribution. I was so surprised to find this coin to be an O-118 I kept going back and forth between O-103 to make it look like an O-118.

Once assured that the coin was in fact an O-118 I thought it best to certify the coin with ANACS. I spent two days trying to figure out what the coin should be insured for during shipment. Since there is a blizzard of price guides from various colored weekly sheets to auction data I thought I could come up with something I could use as a "go by", but to no avail. Since I felt the coin was only a VF and that others may have been discovered since Peterson's book of 2000 I insured the coin for \$5000.

Two weeks after shipping the coin via Registered Mail I received a call from a representative from ANACS telling me that he thought that I grossly undervalued the coin for shipping purposes. I related the story of my inability to obtain a "go by" value. He quickly informed me of the results of an auction for one of the other two specimens of O-118. I was shocked to say the least.

Some hours after the initial jolt settled in I informed the advanced collector who I purchased the coin from and informed him of the transpired events. I told him that I felt that the coin should be auctioned to someone who could appreciate having this rare variety and that I would share the proceeds of an auction of this coin with him. The coin will soon be auctioned at a major show.



*(Pictured Above) Gene C. Holmes proudly displays his rare 1825 O-118 Half Dollar.*



# **Condition Census – Flowing Hair and Draped Bust Half**

## **Dimes 1792 – 1805**

**Stephen A. Crain**

We were very fortunate to have fully fourteen (14) collectors report their collections of early half dimes, with a total of one hundred and one (101) coins reported. Of the thirty-two (32) known die marriages for the period 1792 to 1805, all but one die marriage, the 1795 LM-9/V6, an R4 marriage, are represented in the present survey, perhaps hinting at a greater scarcity for that marriage. The present survey includes two (2) examples of the 1792 half disme, and one example of the 1802, widely considered to be the most expensive, if not the rarest, marriages in the series. Although there were no complete die marriage collections of early half dimes reported in this census, four collections were complete by date, excluding the 1792 and 1802. What might be considered surprising is the overall relative high grade of the collections reported, as Flowing Hair and Draped Bust coins of all denominations are most often encountered in low grade and damaged condition.

No adjustments were made to any of the rarity ratings for any of the early half dimes at this time, although the 1800 LM-2/V3, with at least seven known examples, may be the next to fall below R7 status.

For comparison purposes, and to provide an indicator of the relative difficulty of completing this series by die marriage, the former collections of Ed Price, Jules Reiver, and William A. Harmon, all now dispersed, are presented in a separate tabulation, as “Archived Collections”, for reference.

From this relatively small sampling it is difficult to discern too many patterns, but some interesting observations may still be made. The most ‘common’ die marriages for the early half dimes are rated as “Scarce”, or R3 (201-500 examples), with none more common than that. Of these, it was not surprising to see so many examples of the 1795 LM-10/V4 and 1800 LM-1/V1 reported, as these must be the two most common die marriages for the series, although the late die state 1800 LM-1/V1, with the rim cud below the date, is apparently quite scarce. Interestingly, of the seven (7) R3 die marriages for the series, three of them (1792 LM-1, 1795 LM-8, and 1803 LM-3) had only two examples each reported in the present census. Perhaps the 1792 half disme can be explained from a cost perspective, but the other two would seem an anomaly. Indeed, not one of the top three most complete collections reported a single example of the R3 1803 LM-3, yet all had nice examples of the R4 and R6 marriages for this date. Similarly, not one of the top three collections included a single example of the R3 1795 LM-8 die marriage. This may suggest a tendency to concentrate on the more rare die marriages for each date, or may indicate that they are perhaps scarcer than once thought. It was also a bit surprising to see as many as five examples of the 1797 13 Star LM-4/V1, in such high grade, as this is a solid R6 marriage. The relative high numbers for this well known rarity can best be explained by its notoriety.

The early United States half dimes represent a significant challenge to the serious collector. Collecting the series just by date can be difficult, and collecting by die marriage, even with just thirty-two marriages, can occupy many years of dedicated searching. As with all early Federal coinage, locating nice, problem-free examples can be frustrating, but at the same time very rewarding.



# 2008 FLOWING HAIR & DRAPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS

				CURRENT COLLECTIONS																
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	25	326	97	LM13	1132	962	1260	893	1210	411	1124	519	1068	PCS	AVG	MAX
1792	1	1	3		30				25									2	27.5	30
1794	1	1	6	55		4												2	29.5	55
	2	2	5							25		45						2	35	45
	3	3	4		50													1	50	50
	4	4	4				10		50									2	30	50
1795	1	1	6	64														1	64	64
	2	10	7	61				30										2	45.5	61
	3	2	5			7		40		53								3	33.33	53
	4	3	6	55				40						40		10		5	31.4	55
	5	9	6	30				45										3	29	45
	6	7	6	30				35			6							3	23.67	35
	7	8	6	20														1	20	20
	8	5	3											53	30			2	41.5	53
	9	6	4															0	0	0
	10	4	3		58		12				15						2	4	21.75	58
1796	1	1	3		45		8	35	55	40								5	36.6	55
	2	2	6	40	8	6	3											4	14.25	40
1797	1	2	3		53	10	40		50	50		45						6	41.33	53
	2	4	4		20		12											2	16	20
	3	3	5	50					62									2	56	62
	4	1	6	40	35	8			60				45					5	37.6	60
1800	1	1	3	4	40	30	12					58						6	25.33	58
	2	3	7	58		15		12										4	23.75	58
	3	2	4	40	45	20			61	40								5	41.2	61
	4	4	7	20		15												2	17.5	20
1801	1	3	7	8		3		20										3	10.67	20
	2	1,2	4	53	45	20	8	50					35					4	30.13	53
1802	1	1	5				3											1	3	3
1803	1	3	6	45	35	30					2							4	28	45
	2	1	4	53	55	6					6							4	30.5	55
	3	2	3				25				8							2	16.5	25
1805	1	1	4	30	35	20	8						35					5	25.6	35
COINS OWNED				19	14	14	11	9	7	5	5	3	3	2	1	1	1	32 KNOWN		
AVERAGE GRADE				39.79	39.57	14.07	12.82	34.11	51.86	41.6	7.4	49.33	38.33	46.5	30	10	2			



# 2008 EARLY BUST HALF DIME CENSUS

## ARCHIVED COLLECTIONS

DATE	L/M	V	R	EP1	EP2	JR	WAH
1792	1	1	3	50		15	20
1794	1	1	6	55	53	20	20
	2	2	5	55	50	15	30
	3	3	4	58	55	50	40
	4	4	4	50	40	50	50
1795	1	1	6	58	50		40
	2	10	7	63	55	35	
	3	2	5	60	55	40	20
	4	3	6	60	50	12	35
	5	9	6	53	50	20	
	6	7	6	55	50	30	20
	7	8	6	40	20	40	45
	8	5	3	60	40	50	45
	9	6	4	61	30	30	20
	10	4	3	63	50	45	50
1796	1	1	3	62	50	40	55
	2	2	6	62	55	30	40
1797	1	2	3	55	45	40	40
	2	4	4	55	55	55	60
	3	3	5	58	50	6	20
	4	1	6	60	53	30	15
1800	1	1	3	55	50	45	45
	2	3	7	50	40	20	
	3	2	4	50		30	30
	4	4	7	30	20		
1801	1	3	7	4	4	20	
	2	1,2	4	63	55	40	45
1802	1	1	5	45	40		6
1803	1	3	6	60	60	40	20
	2	1	4	61	55	15	45
	3	2	3	55	40	30	45
1805	1	1	4	50	45	12	30
COINS OWNED				32	30	29	27
AVERAGE GRADE				54	46	31	34



1792 LM-1



1794 LM-3



1797 LM-4 13 STAR



1800 LM-3



1801 LM-2

All photos on this page courtesy of William T. Jones

# **Condition Census – Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 – 1837**

**Stephen A. Crain**

It has been just three years since publication of the last JRCS Bust half dime census survey, in 2005, yet in that very short time one of the more significant discoveries in the Capped Bust half dimes in recent years was introduced by Bust half dollar guru Edgar Souders. The new 1835 LM-12, a marriage of two previously known dies, brings the series to 92 presently known die marriages. It is suspected that, because of its similarity to the 1835 LM-8.1 marriage, many additional examples could have been simply overlooked in the past by hasty or inattentive collectors. A second, confirming example has since been discovered, and both examples are included in the present census. Collectors are once again reminded to look carefully at both sides of a coin before making any premature attributions. It is only through a fortuitous coincidence that the newly discovered 1835 LM-12 finds its proper place in the Logan/McCloskey emission sequence, which successively numbers die marriages within each year in their order of emission. Future discoveries may not be so lucky, which would disrupt the L/M numbering sequence, and remove perhaps the single greatest argument in favor of completely renumbering the old Valentine numbering sequence.

Participation in the present census was considerably greater than for the 2005 census, with thirty (30) collectors reporting their collections for the Capped Bust half dimes, and a total of 1727 coins reported. This compares with just sixteen (16) total members reporting their collections for all series in 2005.

The rarity estimates given in the accompanying tables are my own, based upon several factors, beginning with the rarity estimates published in the Logan/McCloskey book, modified by the data compiled in this and previous census surveys, and also modified by data from my own observations and knowledge, with input from a few other knowledgeable and respected specialists, based upon many years of collecting the series. Collectors are warned, however, against placing too much emphasis on the rarity ratings, as they are merely estimates. While a limited amount of valid information may properly be gleaned from the compilation of a census survey such as this, more often the census results tend to be construed to misrepresent the information contained therein by making some invalid assumptions. Perhaps the greatest of these invalid assumptions is that the census results represent a cross section of what is readily available to collectors in the open market. Quite the contrary, by their very nature, the coins listed in the accompanying charts are the very coins no longer available to collectors, as they are impounded in collections, and are likely to remain off the market for a very long time. Many of the coins listed herein represent exhaustive searches by dedicated specialists who have spent years seeking just the right specimen for their collection, and it would be folly to think that anyone could easily duplicate the same results by treating this as a shopping list of sorts.

There are many caveats which should be fully understood before collectors attempt to apply the results of this or any similar census survey to their collecting pursuits. These limitations, or biases, can be summarized as follows:

**Limited Sampling:** This census was open only to JRCS members, and primarily only half dime specialists chose to participate. This represents a very tiny percentage of the total number of collectors, and of the total number of existing half dimes. For example, a total of 13,058,700 Capped Bust half dimes were produced by the Mint during the period of 1829 to 1837. If we assume a very



conservative survival rate of just 1%, then 130,587 Capped Bust half dimes would be extant. Yet the approximately 1727 half dimes reported in this census are just 0.013% of those. If we use a larger, perhaps more realistic survival rate of 4%, then the half dimes reported in this census represent a mere 0.0033% of the total surviving specimens! Also, the coins reported in this census do not represent a random sampling of what is available to collectors in the market place, but represent only those dates, varieties and grades that collectors chose to purchase for their collections.

**One collector, one coin:** Most collectors do not purchase coins in direct proportion to the number available in the marketplace. Collectors typically seek just one example of each date and die marriage, and seldom purchase additional examples. On the other hand, if a collector determines that a specific issue is scarce or has good investment potential, he may purchase additional examples as duplicates or for trade. Such practices can skew the census, often making scarce issues appear to be more common.

**Upgrading:** Many collectors purchase the more difficult die marriages in whatever grade is available at the time, and then seek to upgrade the coin at a later date when available. Once upgraded, collectors often retain the lower grade specimen as a duplicate or for trade. For the more common die marriages, however, collectors may forgo any purchase until the desired grade example comes along. Again, this would tend to skew the census in favor of the scarcer marriages.

**Hoarding:** Some collectors develop a particular interest in a specific date, whether for study, investment, or other purpose, and report disproportionate quantities of those dates. These hoards tend to make certain dates appear much more readily available than experience has shown.

There are a few changes to be noted in the overall estimated rarity for a couple of important die marriages. Many will recall that, in the 2005 census, I reported that there were no longer any R8 die marriages in the series, as the 1833 LM-5/V10, the only remaining R8 at that time, was reduced to an R7+ with the appearance of a fourth specimen on eBay. Well, with the discovery of the new 1835 LM-12, with just two reported specimens, we once again, however temporarily, have an R8 to search for. I suspect that, with the excellent documentation provided by its discoverer for this new die marriage, combined with increased collector knowledge of the specific attribution, this die marriage will also fall to R7+ by the next census.

The 1832 LM-9/V14 die marriage was listed as an R7 in the last census, but from the number of specimens reported in this census, combined with additional specimens known to exist and/or seen by myself and others, we must now reduce that overall marriage to an R6+. There are a total of eight (8) specimens reported in the current census alone, plus an additional eight (8) confirmed examples either in dealer inventories or in collections that were not reported, reducing the overall marriage to an R6+. By remarriage, the LM-9.1 remains the more common, with 13 of the 16 known examples; the remaining 3 specimens are of the much rarer LM-9.2 remarriage.

Similarly, the 1830 LM-5/V13 can now be reduced to an R6 die marriage. Although only six examples were reported in the current census, sufficient additional examples are known to exist to place the total at thirteen or more pieces, making this die marriage an R6+ rarity. It is my opinion that the early die state, without the cud, is the rarer die state. Also, most examples with the obverse cud at stars 5-6 tend to be low grade.

An interesting controversy has arisen regarding the 1830 LM-1.1 remarriage, prompting one member to suggest that either the remarriage does not exist, or that the die state paragraph description for the LM-1.1 is in error. Yet another collector has suggested that there is an additional, earlier remarriage involved here, presenting a difficulty in the numbering sequence; he has suggested numbering his early remarriage as LM-1.0, in proper chronological sequence. I had previously listed, in the 2005 census, my own MS-63 example as an LM-1.1, but after reviewing the information presented by its detractor, I am convinced that at least my example is the LM-1.2. I would encourage all members purporting to have an example of the 1830 LM-1.1 to carefully review their coins, paying particular attention to the reverse die state paragraph in the L/M book, and comparing this to the reverse die state description for the later 1829 LM-13.2. Most of the debate seems to center around the appearance of the die crack from R of AMERICA to the rim, listed as first appearing on the 1830 LM-1.1 remarriage in the text, yet shown as first appearing in the 1829 LM-13.2 remarriage on the Reverse G Deterioration chart on page 67 of the L/M reference. Additionally, the initial appearance of the die crack from the right wing tip to the arrows is also in question. Further complicating this issue, one collector reports an AU-55 example of the 1830 LM-1.1, which is the Logan plate coin. Almost by definition, that must be a bona fide 1830 LM-1.1. And the primary detractor of the 1830 LM-1.1 now claims to own a F-12 example. Further research and clarification is in order.

Evidently, the 1829 LM-6.1 is the rarest remarriage in the series. Only one specimen was reported in the current census, and this was only a G-6 example. The Logan/McCloskey plate coin was a nice MS-63, previously from the Heritage 1994 ANA Auction, where it was listed as an MS-64. This coin was not reported in the present census, nor were any other examples. The LM-6 overall marriage is an R5, but the LM-6.1 remarriage must be considered at least an R7+. Other extremely rare remarriages include the 1832 LM-9.2, with only one example reported, the 1832 LM-10.2, with two examples reported, the 1832 LM-8.5, with three examples reported, and the 1833 LM-3.5, with three examples reported. Additional examples of each of these remarriages are known, but these were the only examples reported in the current census.

The accompanying chart represents the best method by which to tabulate all of the reported information, including specific remarriages as reported, while at the same time maintaining the traditional listing of just the basic marriages. In the chart, the 92 basic die marriages are tabulated in the white boxes as a census of collections. The fifteen numbered vertical columns represent the fifteen largest and most complete collections reported, listed by JRCS membership number, in decreasing order of completeness, while the horizontal (white) rows represent the 92 basic LM die marriages (cross referenced to Valentine numbers). For those collectors who elected to report specific remarriages, those are reported in the gray boxes. For all collections, the highest grade specimen reported for any marriage which contains a remarriage is listed in the white box and



included in the average grade calculation. Any examples of remarriages reported (including the highest grade specimen used in the average grade calculation) are tabulated in the gray boxes. This method of tabulation allows direct comparison of collections, by completeness and by average grade, regardless of inclusion of the remarriages, without unnecessarily reducing a collector's average grade if he elected to include the remarriages. The "TOTAL MARRIAGES" box represents the total number of generic marriages (of a maximum of 92) in a specific collection, while the "TOTAL REMARRIAGES" box represents the total number of remarriages (of a maximum of 50)<sup>1</sup> in a specific collection. The "AVERAGE GRADE" box is the calculated average grade only for the 92 basic die marriages, and does not include the remarriages.

At the right hand side of the chart are three columns designated "PCS", "AVG", and "MAX". These represent the total number of pieces reported (PCS) for a given marriage or remarriage, the average grade (AVG) for a given marriage or remarriage for all reported collections, and the highest grade reported (MAX) for a given marriage or remarriage, including smaller collections not listed, and duplicates not listed.

One aspect of half dime collecting that has all but disappeared from the present day Third-Party-Graded, plastic entombed, POP-1, investment crazed hobby is collecting by die state. Early half dime researchers such as Valentine and Reiver listed successive die states chronologically, designated with a lower case letter suffix, such as V3a, V3b, etc.. Collectors familiar with Jules Reiver's "Variety Identification Manual" (VIM) for the Bust half dimes will recognize such designations for the various die states, whether very early (VEDS), middle (MDS), or very late (VLDS). The Logan/McCloskey "Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837" introduced us to the concept of remarriages, for which we shall all be grateful, but there is an important difference between remarriages and die states, and the two should not be confused. Any given marriage or remarriage can encompass numerous different die states. Most collectors can appreciate the appeal of a very late die state, which results in a cud, but very few collectors recognize the importance of very early die states, some of which can be extremely rare. Consider such examples as the 1831 LM-1.1/V6, with S2 not filled, the 1834 LM-2/V1 with S2 not filled, or the 1835 LM-10/V7, also with S2 not filled. Although each of these examples incorporates a different reverse die, each is most often seen with the top loop of the second S of STATES filled, and very early die state examples, with S2 not filled, have proven to be extremely difficult to locate.

<sup>1</sup> There are a total of nineteen (19) die marriages for which there are remarriages. In those particular nineteen die marriages, the first marriage is designated LM-x.1, and the subsequent thirty one remarriages are designated LM-x.2, LM-x.3, etc. If we add the 31 remarriages to the 19 first marriages, the total number of die pairings listed with the decimal point designation is fifty (50).





**2008 CAPPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS**

DATE	L/M	V	R	323	326	263	LM47	LM13	411	97	869	1057	19	835	141	1182	194	1124	PCS	AVG	MAX
1829	1	7	2	63	55	20	63	55	50	12	40				58	58		40	14	44.7	63
	2	3	1	63	55	20	58	50	62	12	45	12	40		50	58	40		15	39.4	63
	3	2	2	62	58	35	58	30	64	12	30	10	50						18	42.2	64
	4	13	3	63	50	35	55	58	63			10	30			58			9	46.9	63
	5	6	1	60	55	30	58	50	58	12	20	15	58		50	3			12	39.1	60
	6	5	5	64	58	62	58	45	62	20		12	45						10	48.1	64
	6.1			6															1	6	6
	6.2			45	58		55		55			10	45						7	41.1	58
	6.3			64	50	62	58	45	62			12							8	49.1	64
	7	4	4	64	58	40	65	55	50	8	25	8	50	12	60		40		14	41.1	65
	7.1			61	58		63		50		25	8							6	44.2	63
	7.2			64	45		53		40				50	12			40		7	43.4	64
	7.3			64	50	40	65	55	45			8			60				11	39.7	65
	8	17	7	61	45	8	45	45	30							8			8	30.8	61
	9	11	5	62	53	20	62	62	45	25	12	15	45	30	45	8			17	30.6	62
	10	16	5	64	63	12	61	55	62		45		50			50			11	44.5	64
	11	18	6	58	53	8	12	53		8						10			7	28.9	58
	12	10	6	62	58	15	40	55	50		20		35		45	40			11	41.8	62
	13	12	1	63	62	35	63	55	58	30	30	12	58	20	12	55		55	17	43.2	64
	13.1			62	62	35	55	55	58		30	12	58	20		55			13	44.5	64
	13.2			63	50		63		40									55	6	53.5	63
	14	9	4	61	55	50	61	15	50	20	10	30	40						11	37.5	61
	15	8	4	58	58	15	62	60	58		30	30	40						10	45.1	62
	15.1			58	58		62	60	40			30	40						7	49.7	62
	15.2			58	40	15	50		58		30								7	43	58
	16	14	2	64	62	35	50	55	60			12			20				8	44.8	64
	16.1			64	53	35	50	55	60			12							10	46.9	64
	16.2			63	62		45		58						20				6	48.8	63
	17	15	4	63	55	50	58	55	55	50	10	7	35						12	44.8	63
	18	1	5	58	58	40	53	40	58	40	15	7	35	50		45	25		18	35.8	58
1830	1	10	4	64	63	40	63	62	45	40	30		55	12	50	1			13	41.9	64
	1.1			12		25	12						55	12					5	23.2	55
	1.2			64	63	40	63	62	45		30				50	1			13	41	64
	2	9	3	65	55	30	55	50	63	8		8	50	40			30		14	40.1	65
	3	8	2	64	55	18	65	50	63	12		30	58			55	30	63	18	45.7	65
	4	3	2	63	58	35	58	50	63	50	12	12	60		60		30		10	41.3	63
	4.1			60	58	20	45	50			12	12	20				30		10	36.8	60
	4.2			63	55	35	58		63				60						8	49.1	63
	5	13	6	65	55	45	30	4						15					9	33.9	65
	6	4	5	65	58	20	55	63	58			8		15		20			12	40.3	65
	7	7	2	63	58	25	60	50	58	30	50	12		25				50	10	37.6	63
	8	6	1	61	58	45	58	60	58		30	12	55		45	50			13	40.3	64
	9	5	4	64	58	8	63	50	62	20	10	8	58	20					14	39.6	65
	9.1			64	58	6	63	15	62			8	58						10	43.4	65
	9.2			62	55		50	50	53		10	3		20					9	39.2	62
	10	12	6	53	61	55	55	25					20						6	44.8	61
	11	14	6	35	53	55	55	10	15				20			15			8	32.3	55
	12	11	4	64	55	30	62	40	55	20		10	45			55	25		13	39.8	64
	13	2	3	60	58	62	55	55	45	50	35		53						9	52.6	62
	14	1	3	62	58	18	55	30	63	20	20	6	25	25					13	35.1	63



DATE	L/M	V	R	323	326	263	LM47	LM13	411	97	869	1057	19	835	141	1182	194	1124	PCS	AVG	MAX
1831	1	6	1	63	58	15	60	50	60	20	35	10	35	30	50			55	16	37.9	63
	1.1			40	30	8	60				20			12					6	28.3	60
	1.2			61	50		55	50	60		35	10		30	50			55	11	42.2	61
	1.3			63	58	15	58	50	55		6		35						13	37.2	63
	2	7	3	65	60	30	55	50	62	12	20		20		45	55			17	47.2	66
	3	2	4	65	60	25	58	62	62	20	35		40	25					15	44.8	65
	4	4	2	63	61	12	62	40	64		45	8							10	46.1	64
	5	5	1	61	62	15	55	45		20	35	45		12			40	40	17	37.4	62
	6	1	1	64	62	50	60	58	61	55	40	15	58	20	58	50	30	55	27	50	66
	7	3	2	63	58	8	63	50	58	15	50	12							11	44.1	63
1832	1	10	4	63	55	35	50	58	64		45	12		30					12	40	64
	2	3	3	63	63	35	55	50	53	20	20				30				12	40.3	63
	3	1	1	62	58	8	58	55	50	45	15		50	12	40	53			17	42.2	62
	4	12	4	63	58	45	62	50	62	55	20	12	30	10	60	55		55	18	47.1	63
	5	8	1	64	58	45	53	62	60	55	45	10	45	20	60	12	40	55	29	40	64
	6	11	4	65	55	50	63	40	30	45	8	10	55	12			40		10	37.7	65
	7	9	2	64	55	35	58	45	63	20	30	15	50	20					15	43.4	64
	8	5	3	64	58	45	65	60	62	20	30		40	45	50		45		14	50.6	60
	8.1			64	58	10	65		60		30		40	12	50				8	43.2	65
	8.2			62	20		61		62				40	20					8	43.9	60
	8.3			15	50	40	50		35										5	38	50
	8.4			63	45	45	45	60	58				35	45			45		10	49.6	63
	8.5			61	40		45												4	46.5	61
	9	14	6	58	45	12	45	55	30				4			10			8	32.4	58
	9.1			58	45	12	45	55	30							10			7	36.4	58
	9.2												4						1	4	4
	10	13	3	65	63	25	63	50	50	20		20	25				40		10	42.1	65
	10.1			62	45		63		50			20					40		6	46.7	63
	10.2			45			40												2	42.5	45
	10.3			65	4	25	30						20						6	27.3	65
	10.4			64	63		53	50	20				25						8	40.3	64
	11	4	5	65	58	35	58	30	61	30	12	10	40			40			12	40.8	65
	11.1			64	58	35	35				12	10	40						7	36.3	64
	11.2			65	50	25	58	30	61				20			40			11	37.1	65
	12	2	2	63	58	20	64	25	50	50	50	15		12	40	55	45	30	19	39.7	64
	13	6	3	63	61	20	58	55	55	20		15	20						11	41.5	63
	14	7	4	63	58	30	45	25	40			8							9	36	63
1833	1	7	3	63	58	35	64	50	63	20	12	25	55		60		25		20	42.2	64
	2	9	6	62	35	25	40	58	40				12						8	36.3	62
	3	4	2	64	62	45	63	62	64	20	40	12		25		58		20	14	45.2	64
	3.1			64	62	45	63		53									20	8	48.4	64
	3.2			55	55		63	30	64		40	12							8	46.8	64
	3.3			61	55		55		63					25		58			7	51.7	63
	3.4			62	58		58	62	55										7	49.6	62
	3.5			50	35		40												3	41.7	50
	4	3	2	60	55	45	61	60	58	40		10						50	11	46.3	61
	4.1			60	50		58	55	45			10							7	43.3	60
	4.2			55	55	45	61		53										5	53.8	61
	4.3			45	25		30	60	58										6	38.3	60
	5	10	7	61	20														2	46.5	61
	6	8	6	64	55	20	63	63	62				35			20			10	47.2	64
	7	5	2	63	58	40	63	50	58	20	45			30	60				12	47.3	63
	8	2	3	62	58	10	45	55	40	30	15	10		20	60		45		14	40.2	62
	9	6	2	62	55	12	58	63	63	20	45	20	40	30	50				15	43.1	64
	10	1	1	63	58	35	65	35	62	40	12			30	55				15	42.5	65



DATE	L/M	V	R	323	326	263	LM47	LM13	411	97	869	1057	19	835	141	1182	194	1124	PCS	AVG	MAX
1834	1	5	2	63	58	15	64	58	62	50	10	20	40		45	5		30	20	42.7	64
	2	1	1	63	58	30	58	50	62	20	20	12	58	40	45	58	45	40	24	37.9	63
	3	2	3	62	61	50	58	45	64	3	45	20		20				10	15	39.2	64
	4	4	1	64	58	20	58	60	63	50	20	8		12				50	18	47.6	65
	5	3	3	64	55	45	58	45	58	20		8						40	11	43.5	64
1835	1	2	2	62	55	12	63	58	45	40		12	20	12		12	40		16	36.6	63
	2	8	4	63	58	30	63	50	63	12	40	12	50	15					11	41.5	63
	3	3	1	63	58	18	50	55	50	20	40	8	30	20	60		45		21	38.2	63
	4	11	3	62	61	30	61	62	58	40	8	45	40	12	50		45		19	44.7	64
	5	10	3	63	58	45	50	50	64	12	62	12	50	15	12		35	20	18	38.5	64
	5.1			58	55	8	50	25	64		62			15	12			20	14	37.9	64
	5.2			63	58	45	40	50	63		62	12	50	8			35		14	40.3	63
	6	9	2	62	62	30	58	20	40	40	20	15	40	8	45				14	40.4	62
	7	4	3	64	55	40	65	45	58	50	40	10	50	20				50	17	46.5	65
	8	5	2	63	61	35	55	40	58		15	8				50	45	45	17	45.2	65
	8.1			45	45	8	55		58		15	8				50		45	13	36.8	58
	8.2			63	61	35	45	40	55								45		11	51.5	64
	9	6	2	64	58	35	62	50	50	40	40	12	45	30	45				15	37.5	64
	9.1			64	58	35	55	40	50		40	12	45	30	45				12	43.3	64
	9.2			62	53	8	62	50	8				20						12	30.4	62
	10	7	1	65	55	25	63	40	50	30	30	8	30	40	60	58	30	40	27	41.5	65
	11	1	4	62	55	25	58	40	50	30	12	20	50	20			40	20	17	39.4	62
	12		8	45		4													2	24.5	45
1836	1	5	5	66	58	18	58	64	35		15	12	50	12			30		13	35	66
	1.1			50	55		55	58	20								30		7	41.1	58
	1.2			66	58	18	58	64	35		15	12	50	12		3			17	31.3	66
	2	1	3	62	55	50	58	55	55	12	55	30	50						15	41	62
	3	4	1	63	55	45	66	45	58	50	20	12		4	50	50			23	66.6	66
	4	2	2	66	58	45	55	30	50	10	30	6		12	50				15	39.6	66
	5	6	2	62	61	45	58	60	64	50	40	12		30	50			20	25	42.7	65
	6	3	3	61	58	20	55	35	53	30	35	7		12					13	37.4	61
	7	7	4	62	55	6	55	25	50		50	12	40	20					13	38.5	64
1837	1	3	1	64	62	12	63	20	58	15	35	12	50	20	50	40			18	41.6	64
	2	4	5	61	50	35	50	45	58	20	10	3	45			8			18	28.7	61
	3	5	6	58	30	8	45	45	50							15			11	31.1	58
	4	2	3	63	55	15	53	30	55	12	15		30	10	20	55			22	39.2	65
	5	1	1	63	53	35	63	58	58	20	12	12			12			8	19	37.6	65
TOTAL MARRIAGES				92	91	91	90	90	86	69	68	68	61	49	39	37	25	24	92 KNOWN		
AVERAGE GRADE				62.2	56.4	29.6	57	47.6	55	27.3	28.6	13.6	41.5	21	46.3	36.3	37	39.2			
TOT. REMARRIAGES				49	46	28	48	26	40	0	17	19	21	14	7	7	7	5	← See Note 1		



# **Capped Bust Dimes - Uncovering the Remarriage of 1832 JR-7 and 1833 JR-4**

**Kirk Gorman**

The genesis for this paper was an article in the November 4th, 2002 issue of Coin World by Mark Borckardt titled "Remembering Russell Logan<sup>1</sup>." In this article, Mr. Borckardt describes Russell Logan as the researcher and writer that co-authored two "...excellent references in a manner that sets a standard for future die variety studies." This led me to open the Federal Half Dimes (1792-1837)<sup>2</sup> book co-authored by Russ Logan and John McCloskey.

Here I was reintroduced to the study of die remarriages. Originally introduced to the study in 1998 by Mike Sherrill's intriguing article "New Emission Sequence for the TED Successfully Higher Reverse Dimes<sup>3</sup>", I became reacquainted and interested with remarriage research.

A brief explanation differentiating a die marriage from a die remarriage is in order. A die marriage is the unique pairing of an obverse die and a reverse die. A die, whether obverse or reverse, may have been previously shared with another marriage and/or used with another die in the future. Many reverse dies were shared with more than one obverse die and often across different dates. A die remarriage is the unique pairing of an obverse and reverse dies creating the first die marriage; then, one or both dies are used with a different marriage only to be later reunited with the original dies from the first marriage. This reunited marriage is the remarriage or the second marriage. A remarriage is always two marriages of the same obverse and reverse dies interrupted by the use of one or both dies in an interim marriage.

Apparently, there was little in the way of procedure for selecting which dies would be used for production runs in the early mint. Why certain die combinations were selected will remain a mystery. The dies may have been randomly chosen when the press operator was setting up the press for a production run. When the quota was met, or the dies were removed at the end of the day, the operator would return the dies to storage. For the next production run, the press operator would acquire the dies from storage and set up the press. This could be a continuation with the earlier die marriage, the initiation of a new marriage, or a reunited remarriage.

The production run would end when the scheduled quantity was fulfilled. Before the quantity was met, a die may have been damaged or experienced a terminal failure. If a die was damaged or failed, instead of replacing both dies following a die failure, the press operator would replace the defective die with an available die. This available die may be a new die or the reuse of an earlier die. If the die was previously used, the die pairing may produce a new marriage or a remarriage. The defective die may be repaired or retired, but the press would continue to operate with the replacement die. If the die was repaired, it may return to service reuniting the earlier die marriage.

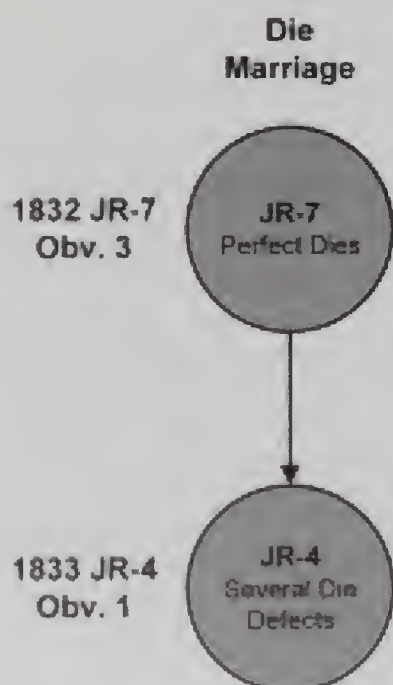
The early Mint was under continual scrutiny to economize and to meet demanding production schedules. Dies were expensive to produce, this expense forced the use of a die until it was deemed unusable. If you would like additional information about the coining process that produces remarriages, I encourage you to read Richard Meany's excellent article titled "Understanding Capped Bust Half Dime Die Remarriages.<sup>4</sup>"

Being an early dime collector, I decided to give it a try and look for an undocumented remarriage in the capped bust dime series. The 1832 JR-7 and 1833 JR-4 capped bust dimes share a common reverse die as defined by the Early United States Dimes (1796-1837)<sup>5</sup> book. The Early United States Dimes (1796-1837) book is the definitive reference for early dimes and further cited in this article as the EUSD. The EUSD refers to the reverse used with the 1832 JR-7 as Reverse E and with the 1833 JR-4 as Reverse C. Both of these marriages share the same reverse die but the EUSD convention gave them different identifiers. This can lead to some confusion. For this paper, I will refer to this shared reverse as Reverse FFF.

Reverse FFF is, in and of itself, a fascinating study. This reverse in its late die states is readily available. But, finding higher grades has proven challenging. The late Jules Reiver attributed his die states for this reverse in great detail. His notes were included in the lot descriptions in the Heritage Galleries sale of the Jules Reiver Collection<sup>6</sup> in January 2006. This catalog is a must read for any serious collector of early federal coinage.

Having several examples of both 1832 JR-7 and 1833 JR-4 varieties, I placed the coins with the obverse side face down. Using a stereomicroscope, I carefully looked for die characteristics that would allow me to differentiate each state. These characteristics included, die cracks, clashing, die chips, lapping, cuds, and flow lines. I placed each coin in chronological order by the reverse die degradation from the earliest die states to the latest die states. After turning the coins over, I was surprised to discover the emission order as described in the EUSD, did not support my findings.

As stated in the EUSD, during coinage of the 1832 JR-7 marriage, the reverse is described as having no die defects. It isn't until the reverse die is used with the 1833 JR-4 that reverse die defects are noted. Drawing 1 illustrates the emission order as described in the EUSD. The methodology of this drawing is heavily borrowed from the Federal Half Dimes (1792-1837) book.



Drawing 1. FFF Reverse – EUSD Emission Sequence

In Drawing 1, FFF Reverse – EUSD Emission Sequence, the drawing shows the emission sequence as described in the EUSD. The first use of Reverse FFF is with the 1832 Obverse 3 to form the 1832 JR-7 variety. This is shown at the top of the drawing. The reverse has no documented defects before completing this marriage. After striking all 1832 JR-7 dimes, the second use of Reverse FFF is paired with the 1833 Obverse 1 die to form the 1833 JR-4 variety. It was during this marriage that Reverse FFF reached its terminal state and retired. This pairing is shown at the bottom of the drawing. The Early United States Dimes (1796-1837) book notes several reverse die defects in this marriage and describes the defects as:



Rev. (1) Rim through E2 to scroll over B, (2) rim through E1 and along top of scroll to A1 and rim, (3) rim through A2 to scroll between UM, (4) left wing to two upper leaves, (5) left wing to rim. Other defects: Reverse crack #2 later becomes a cud.

During my research, I observed an 1832 JR-7 with a distinct die crack from the rim to the top of the E in STATES and another from the rim to the tip of the left wing. Upon further study, I found an 1833 JR-4 without any die cracks. After confirming my findings, I wrote Mike Sherrill. Mike was gracious enough to share his examples and knowledge<sup>7</sup>. He confirmed the remarriage. In a few days I had documented the following die defects.

	Variety	Die Defects
1	1832 JR-7	Perfect Dies
2	1833 JR-4	Perfect Dies
3	1832 JR-7	Medium die crack rim to E <sub>2</sub> Medium die crack rim to left wing tip
4	1833 JR-4	Medium die crack rim to E <sub>2</sub> Medium die crack rim to left wing tip ED STA retained cud.

Note: E2 is the E in STATES.

From these few examples, it was clear that some 1832 JR-7 varieties were struck after the 1833 JR-4 varieties. There is no way to explain the perfect dies for the 1833 JR-4 or the die cracks in the 1832 JR-7 if the emission order was correct in the EUSD. It wasn't clear if the 1832 JR-7 or the 1833 JR-4 was the initial marriage. I needed more examples. All the examples I had were in VF or lower grades. Knowing I needed more examples and higher grades, I started my quest. This odyssey took nearly 5 years to complete. I had now acquired 20 examples to study in grades VF or better.

I carefully documented the die defects and attempted to establish the chronological order of the die defects. This proved to be a very tedious process. As a new die defect was found, it either confirmed or refuted an earlier conclusion. After careful research and analysis, there is little doubt that both the 1832 JR-7 and 1833 JR-4 were both reunited to create remarriages. To differentiate the first marriage from the second marriage, I will borrow the same nomenclature that was utilized in the Federal Half Dimes (1792-1837) book. For example, an 1832 JR-7.2 is the second marriage of the JR-7 variety. The first marriage is noted as 1832 JR-7.1.

Reverse FFF had 4 uses, two first marriages and two second marriages. The emission sequence is as follows:

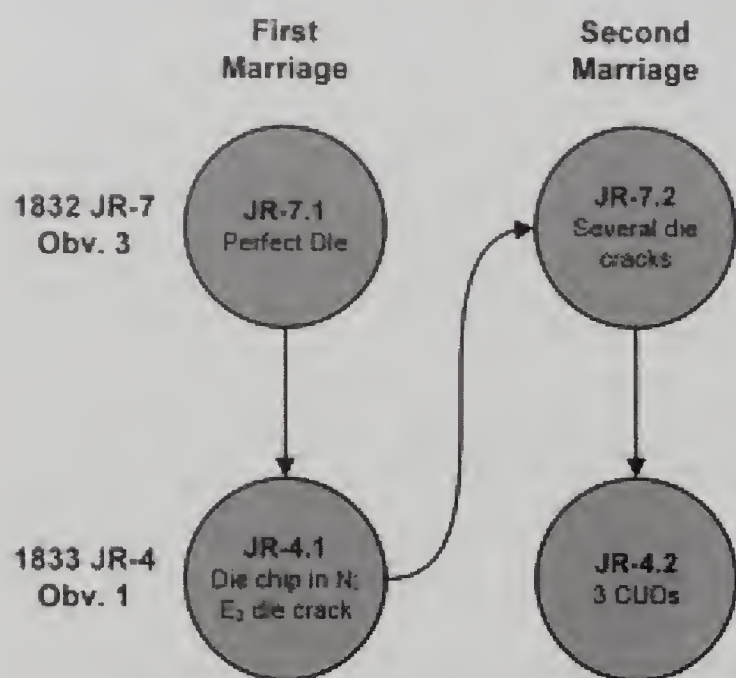
1832 JR-7.1

1833 JR-4.1

1832 JR-7.2

1833 JR-4.2

Drawing 2 illustrates the revised emission sequence.



In Drawing 2, the FFF Reverse – Revised Emission Sequence, the drawing shows the emission sequence starting at 1832 JR-7.1 with the initial pairing of the 1832 Obverse 3 and Reverse FFF. Second, the 1833 Obverse 1 die is paired with Reverse FFF producing the 1833 JR-4.1 marriage. Third, Reverse FFF is reunited with the 1832 Obverse 3 forming the 1832 JR-7.2 variety. Finally, in the forth and last use of Reverse FFF, the reverse is reunited with the 1833 Obverse 1 forming 1833 JR-4.2. Under each marriage identifier (i.e. JR-4.1) is a list of the die defects that

correspond to the variety. If one looks at the 1833 JR-4.1, verifying the die state with the die chip in N and in later states the E2 die crack identifies this first 1833 JR-4 marriage.

To differentiate a first or second marriage, one needs to observe the die state of the reverse. Properly indentifying the use is required to establish an accurate attribution.

**1st Use** 1832 JR-7.1 Reverse FFF paired with 1832 Obverse 3. In its first use, this reverse is perfect (See Image 1).



**Image 1.** 1832 JR-7.1 (1<sup>st</sup> Use) The perfect reverse without the die chip in the lower triangle of N.



**2nd Use** 1833 JR-4.1 Reverse FFF paired with 1833 Obverse 1. In its second use, the reverse shows its first defects (See Image 2). The initial die state for this use has a small die chip in the lower triangle of N in UNITED (See Image 3). All examples seen of the 1833 JR-4 have this small die chip. In later stages of this use, a thin and then thickening die crack forms from the rim through the E in STATES to the scroll near the B in E PLURIBUS UNUM (See Images 4 & 5).



**Image 2.** 1833 JR-4.1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Use – Early) Early stages of the 2<sup>nd</sup> use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N.

**Image 3.** 1833 JR-4.1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Use – Early) Close up of the small die chip in the lower triangle of N.





**Image 4.** 1833 JR-4.1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Use – Late) Later stages of the 2<sup>nd</sup> use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N and the forming of the E<sub>2</sub> die crack.



**Image 5.** 1833 JR-4.1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Use – Late) Close up of the E<sub>2</sub> die crack.



### 3rd Use

1832 JR-7.2 Reverse FFF paired with 1832 Obverse 3. In its third use, the initial state of the reverse die is in the same state as the ending state of the 2nd use. (See Image 6) From this point, the reverse begins to form a number of die defects. (See Image 7) The reverse defects are as follows:

1. Small die chip in lower triangle of N
2. Thick die crack rim to E2 continuing thin to scroll at the middle of B
3. Medium die crack rim to left wing tip
4. Thin die crack top of right wing to scroll near the upper right serif of M
5. Thin die crack rim to E1 to upper left edge of scroll
6. Thin die crack rim to top of A2 through the right foot continuing very thin to the scroll near right serif of U4
7. Thin die crack rim to top of A1 through left leg to scroll at the middle of U1
8. Very thin die crack rim to top of A3
9. Thin die crack rim to leaf 2
10. Thin die crack leaf 7 to left wing
11. Thin die crack leaf 8 to left wing
12. Thin die crack right wing to shaft of arrow 1

**Image 6.** 1832 JR-7.2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Use – Early) Early stages of the 3rd use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N and the E<sub>2</sub> die crack.



**Image 7.** 1832 JR-7.2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Use – Late) Later stages of the 3rd use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N and several die cracks.



**4th Use**      1833 JR-4.2 Reverse FFF paired with the 1833 Obverse 1. In it's forth and final use, the reverse die has produced some of the most available diverse die states. The die state starts at the end the 3rd use (See Image 8) and terminates with a die that produces three retained cuds (See Image 9). The reverse defects are as follows:

1. Small die chip in lower triangle of N
2. ATE retained cud. The die is slightly sinking near E2 forcing the metal above the surface plane of the coin. (Rim to A1 through the left leg to the scroll at U1 traveling along the upper scroll to B then up through E2 to rim)
3. Thick die crack rim to left wing tip
4. Thin die crack top of right wing to scroll near the upper right serif of M
5. ED STA retained cud. The die is deeply sinking near E1 and moderately sinking at A1 forcing the metal above the surface plane of the coin. (Rim through E1 to upper left edge of scroll, traveling along the upper scroll to the middle of U1 and then up to the left leg of A1 to rim)
6. ES OF A retained cud. The die is moderately sinking near A2 forcing the metal above the surface plane of the coin. (Rim through E2 to upper scroll at B, traveling along the upper scroll to right side of U4 and then up to the right foot of A2 to rim)
7. Medium die crack rim to top of A3
8. Thin die crack rim to leaf 2
9. Thin die crack leaf 7 to left wing
10. Thin die crack leaf 8 to left wing
11. Thin die crack right wing to shaft of arrow 1





**Image 8.** 1833 JR-4.2 (4th Use – Early) Early stages of the 4th use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N, several die cracks and the **ED STA** retained cud forming. (Photo courtesy of Heritage Galleries & Auctioneers.)



**Image 9.** 1833 JR-4.2 (4th Use – Late) Later stages of the 4th use show the small die chip in the lower triangle of N and 3 well developed cuds.

The search for undiscovered remarriages proved to be a rewarding exercise. Finding a missing die state is just as exciting as acquiring a missing variety albeit at times frustrating. Given that no new varieties of the capped bust dimes have been documented since the publication of the EUSD in 1984, new discoveries are yet to be found for the researcher of die states and remarriages. If you find yourself bored or discouraged when you can't find that elusive R6 or an adequate upgrade for that problem VF, I encourage you to look beyond your primary collection. Buy a book or auction catalog that augments your library. Read a book that is outside your series and take a renewed look at your collection. I leave you with this... there are other undocumented remarriages out there for you to discover.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Mike Sherrill for sharing his insights, coins, and knowledge. I am indebted to Rory Rea for unselfishly providing invaluable advice in producing the images that otherwise would have been mediocre. And finally, I give special thanks to Yolanda Cunningham and Heritage Galleries & Auctioneers for their generosity.





# Martin Luther Beistle's Bust Half Dollars

## Bill Bugert

I spent many enjoyable hours over the past two years researching the life and interests of Martin Luther Beistle, ML, as he was and is now known. I reported a summary of my findings in his biography for Gobrecht Journal Issue #100<sup>1</sup>. As I primarily collect Liberty Seated Half Dollars and for the interests of the bust half dollar community, I wish to report to the JRCS my findings of his bust half dollar holdings.<sup>2</sup>

ML purchased his half dollars from many sources including picks from circulation, coin auctions, local collectors and dealers<sup>3</sup>, and Rudolph Kohler, a NYC coin dealer. In one of his many letters, ML had this to say about his primary collection of between 1,500 to 1,600 halves: "My collection is made up of a great number of rarities which I have had the opportunity of selecting over as long period of years, always replacing poorer coins with finer specimens which has built up the collection to such an extent that I do not believe there is another similar collection in the country, anything that will approach it in size nor number of rarities." Later he says "...The whole collection will weigh over 50#..."

In June 1927, ML contacted Rudolph Kohler stating he was selling his duplicate half dollar collection totaling in the "neighborhood of 5,000" pieces! Kohler, acting as Col E.H.R. Green's agent, told ML that his "big buyer wanted only the best or none at all." This started a year long dialogue between and among ML, Kohler, and Col Green and the sale of over 4,249 half dollars. Kohler brokered the sale of ML's reference collection to Col Green and also introduced, via postal mail, ML to Col Green.

In a letter to Rudolph Kohler dated July 2, 1928, ML itemized the contents of his primary collection of 1,549 half dollars. (In a later letter, ML stated that his collection was 100% VF to Unc. By today's standards, I believe them to be XF to Unc.) Specifically citing bust halves, he said: "I received your request for more specific information as to what my collection of Half Dollars consists of, and beg to report as follows: Philadelphia Mint, 1794-10 Die Varieties, 1795-46, and this includes the Unique Haseltine No. 4, as well as a die cracked variety not otherwise known, 1796-5, 1797-4, 1801-2, 1802-1, 1803-7, 1805-19, and this includes 2 varieties of the wide dates over 1804, and 2 close dates over 1804.

*1 Liberty Seated Collectors Club's thrice yearly journal dated November 2007. His biography includes information on his life, the three original editions of his book, his half dollar collection, and his "Unique Coin Holder."* *2 Most of my extensive reference materials are photocopies of the contents of ML Beistle's personal files and from The Beistle Company archives. I was graciously allowed unrestricted access to these files by Tricia Luhrs Lacy, ML's great granddaughter and the current Beistle Company President. For more information, see the Gobrecht Journal issue #100.* *3 ML stated in one of his letters that he paid 5¢ over face value for many of his half dollars.*

1806-33, and in this is the pointed 6 over 1805, and knobbed 6 over 1805, together with the 1806 broken edge. 1807-18 varieties including the largest Half Dollar coined at the Philadelphia Mint. 1808-17, with several over dates, 1809-16, 1810-20, and included in these are the 3, one a Unique Coin of the extra small date, the smallest date was cut and one coin struck, and die was re-cut and the one coin struck, and again re-cut and another coin struck, and then widened to what is known as the small date from which the regular issue was struck.

1811-19, 1812-19, 1813-18, 1814-16, 1815-of this rare date I have 4 varieties, 1816-no coinage, 1817-21, one proof and several over-dates including over 1813, 1818-22, 4 varieties over 1817, 1819-23, 3 varieties over 1818, 1820-12, 1821-11, including one proof, 1822-13 including 1 proof, 1823-20, 1824-26, including 2 varieties over 1821, and other over dates.

1825-23, 1826-32, including 1 proof, 1827-34, 1828-17, 1829-24, 1830-25, 1831-19, 2832-37, 1833-20, 1834-27, including 2 sizes of heads, 1835-12, 1836-16 including a very rare variety over 1834, 1837-20, 1838-17, 1839 - 11 including one with beaded milling..." New Orleans Mint 207 varieties from 1838 to 1861..."

This listing is only a portion of the number of half dollars ML sold Col Green. The table below itemizes the half dollar sales as I was able to document them.

Half Dollars sold to Col Green	Total number of half dollars	Price for the lot	Number of bust halves
ML's primary half dollar collection (ML sold thru Rudolph Kohler to Col E.H.R. Green in July 1928)	1549	Offered at \$10,000 but reduced to \$7,500 (excludes a \$500 commission to Kohler)	Approximately 758 - see listing in text.
The Henry E. Luhrs collection of half dollars (sold to Col Green in August 1928). Luhrs was ML's son-in-law and business partner.	976	\$6000	Exact number unknown but supposedly all were bust halves since Luhrs only collected early halves - "...many of the 1794 and 1795...high in quality..."
1836 half dollar varieties that Col Green was missing (ML sold to Col Green in September 19, 1928)	12	\$36	12
Large hoard of 1,695 halves purchased by ML in September 1928 (ML sold to Col Green on October 19, 1928).	1695	\$4464	1,386 incl 7-1794, 56-1795, 1-1796, and, zero-1815s! A tally sheet was in ML's records - see listing.
"Johnson" assortment of 1794 and 1795 halves purchased by ML in early December 1928 (ML sold to Col Green on December 31, 1928).	16	\$712.43	6-1794 and 10-1795; an itemized variety listing was included - see listing.
Copper 1824 half dollar (I could not find the invoice but believe ML sold it to Col Green in June 1929)	1	Unknown	1
Total	4249		± 3,149



From this listing, ML sold Col Green approximately 3,149 bust half dollars. Even today's advanced collector would relish being able study such a vast collection with over 23-1794, 112-1795, 5-1796, and 4-1797 half dollars at one time! Shown below are scans of the listings for the "Johnson" assortment of 1794 and 1795 halves (left – note Beistle and Haseltine Type Table numbers) and for the large hoard (right – no attributions).

After 5 days, return to  
**WINDHAM REALIZATION CO., INC.**  
 Room 1104, 111 Broadway,  
 NEW YORK, N. Y.

Shippensburg, Pa.,  
 December 31, 1928

SOLD TO: Mr. E. H. R. Green,  
 Room 810, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel,  
 New York City, New York.

BY: M. L. Beistle,  
 Shippensburg, Pa.

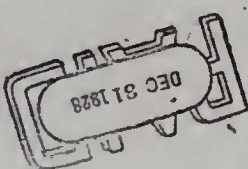
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<u>HALF DOLLARS</u>			
1794	1a Ab	(1)	\$30.00
	2 Cm	(2)	30.00
	1 B	(3)	200.00
	3 D	(5)	20.00
	3 A	(6)	40.00
	4 A	(7)	25.00
1795	1 A	(1)	5.00
	2 W	(2)	5.00
	8 B	(8)	5.00
	9 N	(9)	9.50
	11 P	(11)	8.00
	12 R	(12)	6.50
	1b C	(21)	250.00
	13 U	(22)	12.00
	17 V	(26)	7.50
	1b E	(28)	25.00
16			\$678.50
			Plus 5% 33.93
			<b>\$712.43</b>

U. S. HALF DOLLARS

1794 -	7	1855 -	11
1795 -	56	1856 -	11
1796 -	1	1857 -	2
1803 -	7	1858 -	12
1805 -	13	1859 -	14
1806 -	13	1860 -	4
1807 -	23	1861 -	5
1808 -	23	1862 -	2
1809 -	23	1863 -	5
1810 -	19	1864 -	2
1811 -	13	1865 -	1
1812 -	25	1866 -	4
1813 -	23	1867 -	3
1814 -	26	1868 -	1
1817 -	31	1869 -	4
1818 -	25	1870 -	1
1819 -	26	1871 -	2
1820 -	32	1872 -	6
1821 -	22	1873 -	3
1822 -	24	1874 -	1
1823 -	28	1875 -	2
1824 -	41	1876 -	1
1825 -	31	1877 -	1
1826 -	40	1878 -	1
1827 -	72	1879 -	22
1828 -	50	1880 -	1
1829 -	77	1881 -	1
1830 -	53	1882 -	1
1831 -	59	1883 -	1
1832 -	100	1884 -	1
1833 -	61	1885 -	1
1834 -	120	1886 -	1
1835 -	29	1887 -	1
1836 -	94	1888 -	1
1837 -	40	1889 -	12
1838 -	50	1890 -	23
1839 -	29	1891 -	3
1840 -	13	1892 -	2
1841 -	8	1893 -	2
1842 -	7	1894 -	13
1843 -	6	1895 -	5
1844 -	5		
1845 -	15		
1846 -	5		
1847 -	6		
1848 -	4		
1849 -	2		
1850 -	1		
1851 -	5		
1852 -	17		
1853 -	11		

*1895-1897 at 3.00 each*  
*1707 \$5.21*



*4 A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties, Shippensburg: The Beistle*

ML continued to correspond directly with Col Green after he purchased his reference collection. Col Green must have had a passion for early halves – he asked ML to send any 1794-1797 he could find. ML's son-in-law and business partner, Henry E. Luhrs, who also collected early halves, sold Col Green his early half dollar collection when ML sold his. In his words, "...This cuts out the joy of competition, which we used to have together...With this competition and fun gone, I am considering disposing of my collection..." Additionally, ML gave outright Col Green over 100 auction catalogues from 1913 to 1928 including "...several old and very rare..." ML also offered large lots of Colonial coins to Col Green (he declined the offer), and even gave Col Green a draft copy of his half dollar book<sup>4</sup> in August 1928 (Does anyone have this – it should be a typewritten copy in a leather loose leaf book trademarked

“National No. 4861”?). In return, Col Green ordered large quantities of ML’s “Unique Coin Holders” (ML’s patented coin holders made of heavy white cover cardboard with transparent celluloid slides on both sides of the coin slots for each row of coins) and provided financial backing for his book by pre-ordering hundreds of copies of his upcoming book.

After ML published his book, he continued to accumulate notes on half dollar varieties that were not included in his text with the intent of publishing an update. One such example is a rubbing of a lettered edge 1838 half dollar sent to him by E.Z. Little of Seattle, WA. I’ve included a scan of the rubbing; it may be a counterfeit half but I’ll leave that to the experts to attribute it.



*5 An example is a 1794 PCGS AU55 O-103 listed in Heritage Auction Galleries' 2007 FUN catalogue, January 2, 2007: lot 948. The coin's pedigree is "Ex: Beistle; Colonel Green;..."*

Unfortunately, I could find no records of the sales of his duplicate half dollars but ML offered hundreds dated 1803 to 1840 at 55¢ each to Kohler but he declined saying he was “overloaded with these coins.” ML also offered coins through his “Curio Shop” although I am uncertain what that was. ML sold coins through price lists and advertisements as early as 1923. The listing below is a scan of a 1928 pricelist that itemizes many bust half dollars by variety. Particularly interesting are ML’s cross reference to the Haseltine type table for 1794 and 1795s and lack of grades (merely different prices for different conditions of coins).



1928

# United States Half Dollars and Die Varieties

M. L. BEISTLE, Shippensburg, Penna.

For the collector of die varieties I can send from 2 to 10 different die varieties of practically all dates 1803 to 1840 in the low and medium priced varieties, with no extra charge.

All of the above are Philadelphia Mint, have limited stock of the Branch Mints, and will be glad to quote on receipt of want list.

All orders for \$5.00 or more delivered free, order for less than \$5.00 postage and registration extra. Terms cash with order or on approval to known collectors, satisfaction guaranteed.

## EXTRA SPECIAL

When 20 or 40 Half Dollars are ordered at once, I will send them in a Unique Coin Holder with no extra charge for the holder.

## 1794 HALF DOLLARS

1A Haseltine No. 1, one die crack between D and S and another across letter E	\$40.00
1Aa Sub variety of above with die crack extended along lines to left	\$25.00
2C Haseltine No. 2	\$50.00
2Ca Sub variety of above with die break on edge of reverse	\$45.00
3F Haseltine No. 4	\$50.00
2E Haseltine No. 5	\$60.00

## 1795 HALF DOLLARS

1A Haseltine No. 1	\$20.00
1bA Same as above with a die crack from upper to lower edge, through letter E and figure 1	\$35.00
1bD Haseltine No. 2b, hole	\$30.00
1bE Haseltine No. 2S	\$70.00
2W Haseltine No. 2	\$35.00
2aF Haseltine No. 10	\$20.00
3G Haseltine No. 3	\$35.00
3aG Same die variety as above with 2 circular die cracks at the right of LIBERTY	\$20.00
4aG Double date with die crack from top of head to the edge. NOTE: This same variety struck from a perfect die is Haseltine No. 4	\$30.00
5I Haseltine No. 5	\$20.00
Bb Haseltine No. 26	\$35.00
7K Haseltine No. 7	\$15.00
7aG Haseltine No. 16	\$30.00
8B Haseltine No. 8	20.00
8bD Same as above with a die crack on right of reverse	\$20.00
11P Haseltine No. 11	\$20.00
11bP Same as above with die crack from bust to edge	\$20.00
12R Haseltine No. 12	\$25.00
12Q Haseltine No. 17	\$60.00
13S Haseltine No. 13	\$40.00
13T Haseltine No. 14	\$50.00
15G Haseltine No. 15 Narrow bust	\$35.00
15B Haseltine No. 20	\$55.00
17V Haseltine No. 24 poor	\$50.00

Where two or more of same date are listed they are priced according to condition.

1801 Half Dollar	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 6.00
1802 Half Dollar	\$4.50	\$7.50	\$15.00	\$20.00
1803 Half Dollar	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.50
1804 Half Dollar	No Coinage			
1805 over 1804 Half Dollar			\$7.00	
1805 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$2.75
1806 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$2.00
1807 Half Dollar Head to left	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	
1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.50
1815 Half Dollar	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.50
1816 Half Dollar	No Coinage			
1817 over 1813 Half Dollar	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$4.00	
1817-1818-1819 Half Dollars	\$ .75	\$ .90	\$1.25	
1818 over 1817 Half Dollar		\$1.15	\$1.50	
1818 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.25	
1819 over 1818 Half Dollar	\$1.50	\$2.20	\$2.50	
1819 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.25	
1820 over 1819 Half Dollar	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00	
1820 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.25	\$1.50	
1821 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$3.00
1822 Half Dollar	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50
1823-1824-1825-1826-1827 Half Dollars	\$ .75	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$2.00
1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836				
1837-1838-1839 Half Dollars	\$ .75	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$2.00
New Style—Liberty Seated Half Dollar				
1839 Liberty Seated Half Dollar	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.50	
1840 over 1839 Half Dollar		\$5.00	\$6.50	
1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848				
1849-1850-1851 Half Dollars	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.75	
1806 over 1806 horizontal 6 Half Dollar			\$15.00	
1852 Half Dollar	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$6.50
1853 Half Dollar	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00
1854-1857-1858-1859-1860 Half Dollars				
Proofs	\$1.50	Regular	\$1.00	
1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869				
1870-1871-1872 Half Dollars				
Proof	\$1.50	Regular	\$1.00	
1873 Half Dollar Arrows,				
Proof	\$1.50	Regular	\$1.00	
1873 Half Dollar No Arrows,				
Proof	\$2.25	Regular	\$1.00	
1874-1875-1876 Half Dollars				
Proofs	\$1.50	Regular	\$1.00	
1876 to 1896 Half Dollar				
Proof	\$1.25	Regular	\$ .90	
1892 & 1893 Columbia Half Dollar	\$ .60	\$ .75	\$1.00	
1918 Lincoln Illinois Centennial Half Dollar			\$1.35	
1920 Maine Centennial Half Dollar			\$1.65	
1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar			\$1.25	
1921 Missouri Centennial Half Dollar No Star			\$3.00	
1921 Missouri Centennial Half Dollar With Star			\$5.00	
1921 Alabama Half Dollar No Cross			\$1.60	
1921 Alabama Half Dollar With Cross			\$2.50	
1922 Grant Memorial Half Dollar No Star			\$1.40	
1922 Grant Memorial Half Dollar With Star			\$4.75	
1923 Monroe-Adams Half Dollar			\$1.25	
1924 Huguenot-Walloon Half Dollar			\$1.75	
1925 Lexington Concord Half Dollar			\$1.25	
1925 Stone Mountain Half Dollar			\$1.25	
1925 California Diamond Jubilee Half Dollar			\$2.25	
1926 Phila., Sesqui Centennial Half Dollar			\$1.75	

Col Green's collection was sold in many auctions over the years since his death in 1936, a year after ML's. A few of their halves have shown up in auctions<sup>5</sup>. I have not tried to photo match the plate coins from ML's book to modern auction catalogues but believe that would be an interesting undertaking.

Lastly, I would like to dispel a common belief. It is generally understood among numismatists that ML Beistle used Col E.H.R. Green's half dollar collection as a reference for writing his half dollar die variety book. Even in the foreword to his book, ML credits Col Green as follows: "I am very much indebted to Mr Green for loaning me his entire collection of Half Dollars for checking die varieties, which enabled me to make this work more complete than otherwise." In my opinion, ML does himself a tremendous disservice by giving more credit to Col Green than he deserves. ML amassed a huge collection of over 8,000 half dollars and sold his entire reference collection of 1,549 half dollars to Col Green in July 1928 after drafting his book. ML agreed to give credit to Col Green as he says "...it was my intention to give you full credit as having owned the entire collection as described in the book. I, of course, will take credit as the author of the book." Col Green did purchase other half dollar collections (specifically mentioned are the Detweiler of New York, Kraft of Pittsburgh, Manning, and Joy collections), but there is no indication that ML ever saw any of Col Green's halves other than the 1794s, 1795s, and 1836s. ML requested Col Green's half dollars of these dates be sent to him because he remembered seeing some unusual 1794 and 1795 halves in the Detweiler and Kraft collections that were not in his collection and, while reviewing his draft book after the sale of his collection, ML noticed he omitted the descriptions of the 1836 half dollars. ML repeatedly requested an audience with Col Green but was not able to see him; Col Green was preoccupied with business and his "...tele-vision experiments between his New England home and his Florida home." From the extensive exchange of letters between the two, I believe ML never had an opportunity to see Col Green's coins before his book was published in 1929.

I hope you found this information to be interesting and informative. I welcome comments and questions at my email address: [wb8cpy@arrl.net](mailto:wb8cpy@arrl.net).

*Deluxe Leatherbound Edition*



*Standard Green Cloth Binding*





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# **Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society**

At 8:04 AM, on Wednesday, August 8, 2007, the 22nd annual meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society was convened in Room 101C of the Airlines Convention Center, during the 2007 American Numismatic Association Summer Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A total of forty (40) officers, members, and guests were present.

President David J. Davis brought the meeting to order and introduced the incumbent officers present at the head table:

David J. Davis – President  
John W. McCloskey – 1st Vice president  
Bradley S. Karoleff – 2nd Vice President  
W. David Perkins – Treasurer  
Stephen A. Crain – Secretary  
Dr. Glenn Peterson – Board member

Secretary Stephen Crain gave a recap of the Board of Directors meeting held the previous evening.

Paul Hybert, JRCS webmaster, was introduced, and it was announced that the JRCS official website was being revised, with completion expected by the end of the month (August). Bill Luebke, editor of the JR News, was introduced to the group, and it was suggested that anyone who is not presently receiving the JR News send Bill his email address to be placed on the mailing list.

It was announced that member George Fitzgerald, who had previously been appointed New Member Services Director, would be replaced by Richard Meaney in that position.

A proposed slate of officers for the upcoming 2007/2008 year was presented by the nominating committee by Vice President Karoleff, acting on behalf of Vice President McCloskey, as follows:

David J. Davis – President  
Bradley S. Karoleff – Vice President  
W. David Perkins – Treasurer  
Stephen A. Crain – Secretary  
Dr. Glenn Peterson – Program Chairman  
Jim Matthews – Director  
John W. McCloskey – Director  
Paul Hybert – Webmaster  
Bill Luebke – Editor, JR News  
Richard Meaney – New Member Services

Nominations were then opened up to the floor, and hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to vote the proposed slate of officers. The vote was passed.

President Davis made a plea for broader participation by all members, and stressed the need for new blood and new ideas.

President Davis introduced Dan Holmes, current president of the Early American Coppers (EAC), who gave a brief recap of the recently concluded 2007 EAC 'Happening' convention in St. Louis, and stressed the educational opportunities provided at such conventions. He discussed the next EAC/JRCS joint convention, in Dallas, TX, on May 8-11, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel. The schedule is to have the opening reception on Thursday, May 8, at 5:00 PM, with the bourse and educational seminars on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and the general EAC meeting on Sunday. This year there will be four rooms provided for the "Happening", one each for Colonial coins, Half Cents, Large Cents, and for the first time, one room for Bust silver and gold coins. At this first-ever JRCS Happening, only Bust error coins will be displayed by JRCS members. He stressed the need for volunteers from the JRCS membership. A minimum of six (6) volunteers will be needed just for the Happening, to check in member's coins, to issue receipts for coins to be displayed, to give special instructions, and moderators for each denomination table.

The subject of JRCS member complaints regarding other members was addressed, and President Davis pointed out that provision is made in the current by-laws to expel a member for non-payment of dues and for selling of counterfeit coins (the JRCS by-laws are published in the Index Volumes 1-10 for the John Reich Journal). No other disciplinary measures are provided for in the by-laws. Michael Fey mentioned that the American Numismatic Association has mediation services available for such disputes between members, but this applies only to ANA members. Steve Tompkins suggested appointing an Ethics Committee within the Board of Directors. W. David Perkins admonished that the JRCS was founded for educational purposes, for the sharing of information, and publication of the JR Journal, and not for the settling of disputes between members. He advised that if any JRCS member would like to get involved in this issue, he will gladly appoint them to a committee. Myron Xenos cautioned that JRCS direct involvement in member disputes could involve liability issues and legal problems that the organization does not need. He suggested that that ostracizing, or shunning, the offending member may be our only option. Denis Loring mentioned that the EAC has developed clearly defined provisions for expulsion, which are written into the EAC by-laws, and are published for all members to read and understand. No action was taken on this issue.



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Vice President Karoleff suggested that the various denomination census surveys be eliminated from the annual voting for the Jules Reiver Literary Award. Steve Tompkins mentioned that the last dime survey, compiled by Dr. Charles Horning was excellent, and it would be a shame to exclude it. Secretary Stephen Crain recommended that the census surveys remain as they are, for inclusion in the voting, as to do otherwise would possibly preclude members from voting for their favorite article. Rich Uhrich agreed. A motion was made to keep the voting for the Jules Reiver Literary Award exactly as it is, including the census surveys, it was seconded, and the issue was passed by a vote of the membership.

W. David Perkins mentioned that all names submitted for Life Membership have been approved, and gave a list of the most recent additions, as follows:

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 48 | Edward Zimmerman |
| 49 | David Wnuck      |
| 50 | David M. Sundman |
| 51 | John Dannreuther |
| 52 | Kirk Gorman      |
| 53 | Wayne Herndon    |
| 54 | Stuart Levine    |
| 55 | Thomas J. Powell |

Treasurer W. David Perkins gave the treasurer's Report, and reported that the treasury is "fine".

Vice President Brad Karoleff announced that the annual Jules Reiver Literary Award for 2007 was won by Steve Tompkins, for his article "Counterstamps; A Numismatic Window to Our Historical Past", and presented him with a plaque.

President Davis introduced Bill Luebke, editor of the JR News, and advised any members who are not presently receiving the free electronic publication to send Bill their email address. He then asked for updates on any pending publications on Bust coinage.

Karl Moulton advised that his new book "Henry Voigt and Others Involved with America's Early Coinage" has been published, and is now available. It was exhaustively researched at the National Archives, and contains much previously unknown and unpublished data. It is available for \$79.00 at the show, and for \$99.00 after the show, at the Rare Coin Wholesalers table, just inside the main entrance to the bourse. While at that table, you can also view the finest known Rittenhouse specimen of the 1792 half disme.

Myron Xenos offered that Edgar Souder's updated version (second edition) of "Bust Half Fever" has been published, and is now available.

John Lusk mentioned works by William Noyes on 1795-1797 Large Cents, and by Eric P. Newman on 1787 Fugio cents.

## Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the JRCS

John McCloskey mentioned that his pending book on early gold quarter eagles has been written, and advised that he has made much progress in the past six months.

A book on early gold from 1795 – 1834 was mentioned, highlighting the Harry Bass collection, researched by John Adams. His collection comprised 193 of the 205 possible pieces.

Dr. Glenn Peterson announced that the collaborative effort by himself, Brad Karoleff, Rory Rea and John Kovach on the Bust quarter dollars was “proceeding nicely”. The photos are all completed, but no publication date has yet been announced.

Denis Loring asked if reciprocal links could be provided on both the JRCS and EAC website, directing people to the other organization’s website.

President Davis announced that the business portion of the meeting was now completed, and turned the meeting over to Program Chairman Glenn Peterson. He, in turn, introduced Edgar Souders, who presented a profusely illustrated and detailed Power Point presentation on the recently discovered 1835 LM-12 Capped Bust half dime, the first new die marriage discovered since the publication of “Federal Half Dimes 1792 – 1837”, by Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey. Coincidentally, the new die marriage, of two known dies, falls chronologically after the LM-11 in the emission sequence, so that the L/M numbering sequence, indicating the emission sequence, remains inviolate.

After the program, President Davis adjourned the meeting, and encouraged discussion among members.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephen A. Crain  
Secretary - JRCS

Nominations are solicited for next year’s offices.  
Please contact Brad Karoleff  
at **[jrcs19@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrcs19@roadrunner.com)**  
if you would like to nominate anyone for office.





# The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership  
or direct them to our new website, [www.jrcs.org](http://www.jrcs.org).

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Office Use Only

JRCS# \_\_\_\_\_

Type or Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month) (Date) (Year)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

\_\_\_\_ Collector \_\_\_\_ Collector-Dealer \_\_\_\_ Dealer (Firm Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| a ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes     | h ____ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars    |
| b ____ Draped Bust Half Dimes           | i ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars |
| c ____ Capped Bust Half Dimes           | j ____ Draped Bust Half Dollars       |
| d ____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes    | k ____ Capped Bust Half Dollars       |
| e ____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes | l ____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars      |
| f ____ Capped Bust Dimes                | m ____ Draped Bust Dollars            |
| g ____ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars      | n ____ Gold Issues                    |

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$20.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$500.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # \_\_\_\_\_

### Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):

I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Guarantor)

Relation to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsor's Statement:

I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.  
My JRCS member number is # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Sponsor Member)

John Reich Collectors Society (Employer Identification No. 34-1427467) is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, gifts and contributions made to John Reich Collectors Society may be deducted as provided in the Internal Revenue Code.

Back issues of The John Reich Journal are still available to members for \$7.50 each postpaid.  
Visit [www.jrcs.org](http://www.jrcs.org) for a complete listing of the issues in stock.

